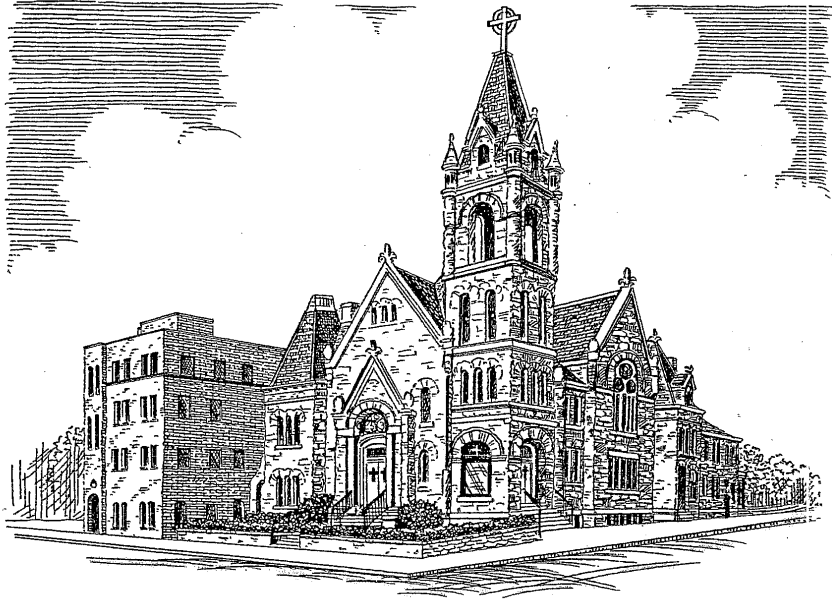


THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church

*53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street)
Mansfield, Ohio*

Volume 50

APRIL 2008

Number 4

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has passed away, behold, the new has come!"*

I Corinthians 5:17

Dear Friends In Christ,

I don't know about you, but I am ready for spring! I am ready to see my yellow daffodils pop and those bright red tulips sway in a warm gentle breeze. I am ready for the early spring smells of mud and earthworms after an April shower. I am ready for the neighborhood roar of lawn mowers and the fragrance of freshly cut grass. I am ready for my apple trees to be clothed again in glorious pink blossoms. I am ready for spring!

SPRING --- It is that wonderful season in which God renews the face of His good earth. It is God's visible declaration to all creation: ***"BEHOLD, I Make All Things NEW!"***

I always love the fact that EASTER comes in the midst of this earthly transition from Death to New Life! More than my heart yearns for daffodils - my heart yearns for JESUS! Truly, He is the ONE who makes ALL things New!

EASTER is the Glorious News that ***Christ Is Risen! HE is Risen Indeed!*** For you Christ has Died! For you Christ has Risen! For you Christ will Come Again! I wish for you, the fullness of Christ's Peace & Love as we celebrate this Joyous Easter Season!

Here, at First English Lutheran, this message of RENEWAL has a special significance for us this year. Our gorgeous sanctuary and buildings desperately need to be Renewed. Therefore, we as a congregation have embarked on a major capital campaign: ***"Renewing God's House of Prayer!"***

This spring, we will not only be ***Renewing God's House of Prayer***. More importantly, we will be renewing our Faith and renewing the Fellowship of our Church. Your Relationship with your Lord Jesus will be Renewed. Your Relationships with your Brothers & Sisters in Christ will be Renewed. You will be Renewed through:

- Your Time in Daily Prayer;
- Your Reading of our special "Renewing God's House of Prayer" Devotional;
- Your Participation in our Weekly Cottage Meetings.

➤ PRAYER

The main commitment that we are asking from everyone is that you would start today, praying this life-changing prayer. Ask the LORD:

*“What would you do through me,
to accomplish your will for our Church?”*

➤ DAILY DEVOTIONAL

On *Vision Weekend* (April 12-13) everyone will receive a special 4-week daily devotional, edited and developed for our congregation by Angie and Chris Kaschube. I know that you will be blessed as you experience these daily reflections, inviting you into a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus and His Church.

➤ COTTAGE MEETINGS

What is a Cottage Meeting? If you remember the New Millennium Appeal from a few years ago, it will be very similar. A Cottage Meeting consists of hosting a group in your home once a week for four weeks beginning the week of Sunday, April 20th. (The same group will meet together in each home for the 4-week period.) In these One-Hour meetings we are asking that you make time to enjoy:

- 15-20 minutes of coffee/tea/small dessert fellowship
- 20-25 minutes of discussion of the weeks' devotional (using the provided discussion questions)
- 10-15 minutes of prayer.

If you are presently meeting in one of our already existing Small Groups, we are asking that you take a four-week break from your current materials to focus on the daily devotionals for our campaign and allow your group to function as a Cottage Meeting. We hope that you will also invite others from the congregation to sign-up to join you for these Cottage Meetings. New Cottage Meetings at new times and places will also be available.

SIGN-Up for COTTAGE MEETINGS!

Sign-up sheets for Cottage Meetings will be in the Church Narthex → beginning on **EASTER SUNDAY, March 23rd**. Cottage Meetings will meet once a week for four weeks starting the week of Sunday, April 20th. Pick the Cottage Meeting with the time and location that works the best for you!

YOUR FAITH REKINDLED!

The construction of our gorgeous sanctuary resulted in far more than the beautiful building that we see today. When God's people stepped-out in all faith and love for their Lord Jesus → their Faith itself was Rekindled. GOD moved, and a mighty spiritual REVIVAL swept through the congregation. This is why our gorgeous Easter window above the East balcony in our sanctuary is dedicated to *"The Revival of 1894!"*

THIS is the exciting Spiritual Reality. As we step out in Faith to Renew God's House of Prayer, our very Faith in Christ will be Renewed and Rekindled. Truly, this is a defining moment in the great history of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church! Through Visioning, Planning, and Building, we believe GOD is calling Us to lay the physical and spiritual foundations for ministry at this dawn of the 21st Century!

None of us are here by chance or mistake! By the design of Almighty God, the Holy Spirit has called each one of us to THIS dynamic moment in the history of our congregation. Our ancestors have provided us with a beautiful place to worship God. We build our future standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Remembering the great witness of those who laid the foundation stones for this sanctuary let us boldly respond to lay the new foundations for ministry in this 21st Century!

"Renewing God's House of Prayer" is really about the fire of God's Holy Spirit being Rekindled in your life. You are the 'Temple of the Holy Spirit!' As you recommit your life to Jesus, God will do a mighty work to Rekindle your Faith. Far more than a building will be Renewed! You will experience the Joy of your Faith in Jesus Renewed!

Jesus said:

"Behold! I Make ALL Things NEW!"

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Paul



Renewing God's House of Prayer

Sermon Series



April 12-13	<i>HOW GOD GUIDES</i>	Exod. 13:17-14:31
April 19-20	<i>THE RISK of THE STEWARD</i>	Matt. 25:14-30
April 26-27	<i>THE GRACE of GIVING</i>	2 Cor. 8:1-9, 12-14
May 3-4	<i>THE VISION and THE GIFT</i>	I Chronicles 29
May 10-11	<i>CROSSING OVER</i>	Joshua 3
May 18 th	<i>COMMITMENT SUNDAY!</i> <i>One Weekend Service Celebration!</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES!

- Tuesday
Apr 1 **Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Emmaus Room. Knitting instruction and patterns provided. Contact: Karen Ellis, 419-884-1882 or Jan Fisher, 419-589-2820.
- Wednesday,
Apr 2 & 16 **Workday Ladies Sew** patchwork quilts 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on the third floor of Luther Hall (bring a sack lunch). Tracing and cutting, ironing, machine sewing, and tying. WELCA contact: Cheryl Lantz, 419-522-7500.
- Sunday,
Apr 6 **Blood Pressure Readings**, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. in the Narthex. Nurses coordinator: Barb Hill, 419-756-4998.
- Sunday,
Apr 6 **Matins Choir rehearsal** at 9:30 A.M. They will sing at the 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion service on April 13.
- Every
Sunday **Fireflies and Spirit!** children's and youth choirs rehearse during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday school hour. Director: Becky Pittman.
- Monday,
Apr 7 **Men's Group** meets at 9:30 A.M. the first Monday of the month for breakfast at Denny's on West Fourth Street in Ontario. Contact: Hal Simmons, 419-529-6586.
- Every
Wednesday **Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch**, 12:10 P.M. worship in the Chapel; lunch following in the undercroft.
- Every
Thursday **Proclaim! Praise Team Rehearsal**, 5:30 P.M. in the undercroft (please use the East side Luther Hall entrance). Contacts: Kristi Larson, 419-756-3858, or Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876.
- Every
Thursday **Senior Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00 P.M. in the choir room in the rear balcony. Director: Dr. Timothy E. Guenther. (Please use the East side Luther Hall entrance).
- Friday,
Apr 18 **Friendly Friday Group**, 10:30 A.M. program in the Emmaus Room. Lunch is served at 11:30; games until 2:00. Rides available. Coordinator: Margaret Battisti, 419-526-4381.
- Sat/Sun
Apr 26 & 27 **Food Collection Weekend.** The February collection totaled 9 bags of groceries for Catholic Charities, and \$177 for our Wednesday Noon Worship and Lunch Program. Thank you for your continued support!

**AGO SPONSORING A
CHOIR FESTIVAL, SUNDAY, APRIL 6,
HERE AT FELC . . .**



The North Central Ohio Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is hosting a choir festival at First English on Sunday afternoon April 6, 2008, at 4:00.

Choirs from First English, St. John's United Church of Christ (Scott Berry, Organist/Director), and First United Church of Christ, Galion (John Sikora, Director/Marcia Burkhardt, Organist) will each sing several numbers individually, then combine for two festival pieces.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Bring your friends to hear some glorious sacred choral music in our beautiful sanctuary!

– Dr. Tim Gueather



**Our Nursing
Home Ministry**

**COMMUNION SERVICES AT
NURSING HOMES . . .**

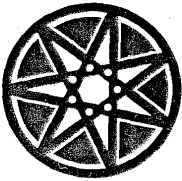
In order to provide communion for First Lutheran members who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, monthly worship services are scheduled in four locations with Communion Deacons assisting the pastors. All residents of the facilities are invited to attend, and members of First Lutheran are encouraged to come and accompany a family member or friend.

Tuesday, April 15

9:00 A.M. Elmcroft of Ontario
10:15 A.M. The Waterford
2:00 P.M. Mifflin Care Center

Thursday, April 17

9:30 A.M. Alterra Sterling House



LUTHER FELLOWSHIP, TUESDAY, APRIL 15 . .

"Hold a rainbow in your hand and enjoy visions of flowers endlessly unfolding. Discover a brilliant palette of mandalas that lets your heart dance. The **kaleidoscope** will form a vision into the magic world where you can find beauty in the midst of chaos."
- Mary Jo Hull

Mary Jo Hull, a friend of Carolyn Weeks, will share some of her world-wide collection of kaleidoscopes at the Luther Fellowship meeting on Tuesday, April 15, at 11:30 A.M. in the Emmaus Room. Cost of lunch is \$5. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin boards; please include your phone number. Questions? Call Carolyn or Lowell Weeks at 419-756-1776.





**Best Wishes
&
Thank You!**

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION FOR CHERYL LANTZ SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008 . . .

Cheryl Lantz, our Christian Day School director from June 1999 to March 1, 2008, is now enjoying her retirement! We will recognize Cheryl's years of dedication to the Day School

with a special liturgy at the 11:00 worship services (Nave and Proclaim! Contemporary) on Sunday, April 20. A reception will follow at 12:15 P.M. in the Narthex.

RICHLAND/ASHLAND CLUSTER OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING RALLY, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, HERE AT FELC . . .

First English Lutheran Church is pleased to host the Spring Rally of the Richland/Ashland Cluster of the Women of the ELCA on April 29, 2008. Registration begins at 5:30 P.M. in the undercroft where several displays will be set up for your enjoyment and education. A Salad Buffet meal begins at 6:30. Bring one salad for every 3 persons attending. (We always have plenty of delicious salads).

The speaker for the evening is Mary Woodard of Ohio Lutheran Disaster Relief. This group was most recently involved in the flooding Shelby and Mansfield experienced. She will have some interesting stories to tell and lots of information to share. A portion of the offering is earmarked for this group as are the In-Kind gifts of blankets, bed linens, towels, small appliances, etc that you are asked to contribute. A truck will be available to receive these items.

Spring Rally!



Plan to attend to meet new friends and revive old friendships with area Lutheran women while learning about this arm of Lutheran assistance. As we are hosting, let's have a good showing of our women. Call Pat Wells for more information, 419-756-6863.

APRIL 2008 WELCA CALENDAR

CIRCLE/EVENT	DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	MEETING PLACE/TOPIC
FIRST TUESDAY	1	TUESDAY	NOON	Emmaus Room. Program: Teresa Cook, Counselor, Area Agency on Aging
EVE	1	TUESDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Prayer Shawl Ministry
SARAH	7	MONDAY	1:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room Program: Jeanne Hillman Hostess: Marilyn Dinges
LYDIA	7	MONDAY	7:30 P.M.	Emmaus Room. Program: Helen Anderson
WORKDAY LADIES	2 & 16	WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	3 rd Floor
MARY	11	FRIDAY	9:30 A.M.	Lunch at Bob Evans
PLANNING MEETING	21	MONDAY	7:00 P.M.	Emmaus Room
Richland/Ashland Cluster	29	TUESDAY	6:30 P.M.	Undercroft Program: "Lutheran Disaster Relief" by Mary Woodard

Funeral Dinners: Squad E: Nancy Pasheilich & Beth Harruff

Altar Workers: Nave – Pat Wells, Chapel – Bev Graham, Contemporary – Jan Fisher

Coming Events: May 2, 2008 – May Friendship Day, St. Luke's Lutheran Church – Noon

May 9, 2008 – Mother & Daughter Banquet – 6:30 P.M.

Tickets on sale April 26, 27th & May 3rd, 4th Adults - \$6.50, Children - \$4.50

CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY FOR THE NEEDY, a WELCA outreach ministry with our Wednesday Noon Lunch Program. Donation boxes are in the Narthex and Luther Hall lobby.



MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET

MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET
FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Tickets on sale Sundays,
April 27 and May 4 in the Narthex

The annual **Mother and Daughter Banquet**, sponsored by WELCA, will be held on Friday evening May 9, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the undercroft. Tickets will be on sale Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 4. Adult price is \$6.50 and children's price is \$4.50.

We have some fun things planned so be sure to bring your Mom, daughters, granddaughters, mother-in-law, sisters, and friends. All women are welcome to join us for this evening of dining and fellowship, plus a nice program. More details will be in the May Visitor. We hope to see you there!

– Cheryl Lantz, WELCA Coordinator



APRIL NEWS IN THE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Our Bible theme for April is Psalm 118:24, This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. We will be celebrating spring by planting seeds and watching them grow, and playing outside in the warmer weather. The children will be participating in Earth Day by helping to keep Central Park and our playground clean, and we will be discussing recycling and litter.

Cheryl Lantz has retired as director of the Christian Day School as of March 1, 2008. She has done so much at the center in her many years of service. The staff and children miss her greatly. We are working diligently to make this transition as smooth as possible. As the Interim Director, I would like to thank the staff at the church and the day school for their encouragement and support!

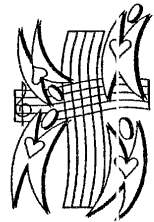
– Terry Bianchi, Interim Director

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

REMINDER: **only the UPC CODE is needed** when cutting labels from boxes and soup cans from Labels for Education products.

COORDINATOR OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS . . .

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! There are so many people to thank for making this such a blessed Easter season. I would like to start with FELC's Christian Day School family. The teachers and children worked very hard to make our "rescheduled" March 30th CDS Sunday program a success (remember, March 9 was snowed-out!). Their time and dedication is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Please visit our outstanding day care center during the week. There are many wonderful things happening in the classrooms everyday.



Our March worship participants included Angie Kaschube and Haley Pittman, Erica Kick, Michael and Stephen Ward, our 3rd-5th grade "Bell Bangers" (thank you, Paul Ward, for leading it!), Sarah Jones and Elizabeth Volz, Katie Ritz, Alissa and Dana Ruth, and Jessika Volz.

The adult hand bell choir is growing! We will perform again at the combined 11:00 service on May 18th (one 11:00 service that weekend to celebrate the capital campaign). If you are interested in joining this fun group, let me know ASAP so I can prepare enough parts. We would love to have you! Please contact me at bpittman@felc-mansfield.org or call 419-529-3876.

- Becky Pittman

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 4, 2008

9:45 A.M. — Nave

Elections will be held after there is an opportunity for nominations from the floor. A consent to serve must be obtained from anyone whose name is put in nomination.

Council positions to be elected are:

President: Ken Frayer
Christian Education: Chris Cichanowicz
Congregational Life: Luella Diday
Evangelism: Steve Ritz

The names of the nominees for the **2008-2009 Nominating Committee** for a one year term are listed below. We will vote for 5 names. The person receiving the most votes will serve a two year term and become the chairperson for the committee:

Alicia Schulz	Mike Anderson	Sherry Winbigler
Mike Hill	Beth Harruff	Gordon Moxley
	Nancy Pasheilich	

Brief biographies of the candidates will be published in the Annual Report which will be mailed in April.

*The agenda for the annual meeting is open,
and there will be time for any discussion.*

REQUESTS TO THE PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain provides prayer support to those with special needs or concerns. Prayer requests for members or non-members may be called in to ***Cheryl Strohminger***, 419-884-2260. Join our prayer chain ministry and become a member of the Prayer Chain! There are no meetings to attend; just make one or two phone calls and pray! Questions about this ministry? Call Cheryl Strohminger at the number above.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULING CONTACTS

The monthly volunteers list is published in The Visitor and is posted on the bulletin boards. The following are responsible for scheduling the listed areas of volunteer ministry:

Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary

419-522-0662

Acolytes

Assisting Ministers

Greeters

Lay Readers

Luther Hall Sunday Door Duty

Chris Cichanowicz,

Sunday School Superintendent

419-529-6593

Nursery Helpers

Gene Luedy, 419-526-4304

Pew Pad Gleaners

Roscoe Thompson, III, Worship Chair

419-522-7571

Communion Preparers

Communion Assistants

Sound Booth Operators

Ruth Sweval, 419-526-5090

8:00 am Sunday Prayer Partners

Barb Hill, 419-756-4998

Blood Pressure Nurses

Gene Harsch, 419-774-0247

Ushers

Renee Blankenship, 419-632-6162

Proclaim! Ushers/Greeters

Proclaim! Communion Preparers

Proclaim! Communion Assistants

Becky Pittman, 419-529-3876

Children's Church Leaders

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS 5:00 P.M.

April 5	Elva Bonser	April 19	Elva Bonser
April 12	Marian Owen	April 26	Marian Owen

GREETERS

Ken & Vi Deems
Lois McCullough

8:30 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Larry Faith
Rebecca Faith

8:30 A.M.

GREETERS

Susanne LeMunyon
Shelley Shupp

11:00 A.M.

Narthex
East Entrance

USHERS

Eugene Calver
Greg Hughes
Pat Smith

11:00 A.M.

8:00 A.M. SUNDAY PASTORS PRAYER PARTNERS TEAMS

April 6	Mary Schwartz, Jane Starner
April 13	Chris Cichanowicz, Jim Scheiber
April 20	Rob Hogsette, Steve Ritz
April 27	Ken & Karen Frayer, Lowell Weeks

LUTHER HALL SUNDAY DOOR DUTY

	<u>8-9:45 am</u>	<u>9:45-11:30 am</u>
April 6	Wes Volz	Tom & Jeanne Hillman
April 13	Stan Cichanowicz	Mary Hujus
April 20	Henry Keultjes	Betty Guenther
April 27	Cindy Russell	Ron Rehm

11:00 ASSISTING MINISTERS

April 6	Annette Doklovic	April 20	Terry Leedy
April 13	Stan Cichanowicz	April 27	Bob McCready

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
April 6	A Kate Hogsette	A Sara Hannemann C Chelsea Heidlebaugh
April 13	A Casey Kelley	A Lindsey Brenkus
April 20	A Sarah Ward	A Alissa Ruth
April 27	A Trayce Prather	A Haley Pittman

LAY READERS

5:00 P.M. Saturday Chapel

April 5	Jean Ridenour	April 19	Jean Ridenour
April 12	Kay McNaul	April 26	Kay McNaul

	<u>8:30 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
April 6	Sherry Winbigler	Stacey Crall
April 13	Liz Prather	Dan Shupp
April 20	Karyne Carey	Helen Anderson
April 27	Mary Hujus	Jo Wirstrom

11:00 NURSERY HELPERS

April 6	TBA	April 20	TBA
April 13	TBA	April 27	TBA

COMMUNION PREPARERS

April 6 11:00 a.m. Betty Wilson & Marilyn Dinges
April 13 8:30 a.m. Margaret Runyon & Carol Fry

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(regular communion)

	<u>April 6 - 11:00 am</u>	<u>April 13 - 8:30 am</u>
Bread Servers	Pastor & Assisting Minister	2 Pastors
Wine West	Jack Leonard	Tom Pasheilich
Cups West	Pat Leonard	Nancy Pasheilich
Wine East	Susanne LeMunyon	Steve Ritz
Cups East	Jo Wirstrom	Devera Ritz
Intinction	Chris Cichanowicz	Paul Theaker

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE

April 6: Carol Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Pittman, coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Personnel Committee

PEW PAD GLEANERS

April 6	Gene Luedy	April 20	Mary Jackson
April 13	Jane Sprang	April 27	Gene Luedy

APRIL ALTAR WORKERS

Nave: Pat Wells
Chapel: Bev Graham
Proclaim!: Jan Fisher

+ + + + +

11:00 PROCLAIM! CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Greeters/Ushers

April 6 Cindy and Robyn Russell
April 13 Renee and Emily Blankenship
April 20 Jerry and Lu Diday
April 27 Ted and Karen Ellis

April 20 Communion Preparer

Jan Fisher

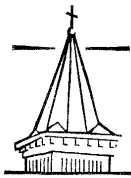
April 20 Communion Assistants

Matt and Renee Blankenship
Ted and Karen Ellis

Intercessory Prayer Team

Matt Blankenship and Kristi Larson





Congregation Council

MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES . . .

The March 11, 2008 meeting of the First English Lutheran Church Congregation Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Larson opened the meeting with prayer.

SENIOR PASTOR :

Pastor Larson expressed appreciation to Shawn Volz for clearing the snow from the church parking lots and to Bill Schwartz for sidewalk snow removal. He stated that much work has been done to renovate the Luther Hall penthouse apartment by Tom Pasheilich and Bill Schwartz, with painting assistance by Chris and Stan Cichanowicz and Larry Lantz.

Pastor Larson reported on the work of the Nominating Committee, and thanked them for their prayerful dedication. He gave an update on the "Renewing God's House of Prayer" Capital Campaign. There are 39 Team Leaders who are presently recruiting their ministry teams.

Pastor Larson also gave an update on the Mid-Week Lenten Bible Study Series on the Book of Genesis, and upcoming plans for Holy Week. Information was distributed on the special Bible Study to be hosted by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland on April 3.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Jones stated that in addition to normal duties, he is working on a video for the "Renewing

God's House of Prayer" Capital Funds Campaign. The video will be given to all members of the congregation.

WELCA: Cheryl Lantz reported that our church will host the Richland-Ashland Area Cluster meeting on April 29 at 5:30 P.M., and the Mother-Daughter Barquet will be held Friday, May 9.

PERSONNEL: Sherry Winbigler reported that Terry Bianchi was hired as interim director of the First English Lutheran Church Day School. An advertisement will be placed in the Mansfield News Journal advertising the position.

FINANCE: Rob Skropits stated that Selective Insurance will insure the church property for the contract year, resulting in a savings of \$9,537 over the previous insurance company. Much appreciation was given to Tom Pasheilich for his work in obtaining several quotations for the insurance coverage.

PROPERTY: Shawn Volz said the high school Sunday School room has been painted by Stan and Chris Cichanowicz,

(continued)

and carpet has been laid, part of which was a remnant left from the Narthex carpeting. Shawn stated that 34 spaces are currently rented in our parking lot.

GLOBAL MISSION: **Jeanne Hillman** reported that Linda Elgin will be in charge of getting information to members of our congregation about the ELCA Global Mission Event in LaCrosse, Wisconsin July 17 through July 20, 2008. There is \$1,400 in the Global Mission budget to assist attendees with travel and registration expenses.

STEWARDSHIP: **Renee Ward** said that positive comments have been heard about the Lenten offering envelopes which replaced the Lenten folders. Our Lenten Offering is earmarked for "Lithuanian Missions."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: **Chris Cichanowicz** stated that the Junior High School Sunday School class will be selling flowers for Mother's Day in order to purchase a cow through the ELCA for a needy family in another country. They

are applying for Thrivent matching funds. Council approved to have a Lion's Club eyeglass collection box in the Narthex, with Stan Cichanowicz responsible for collection of the glasses.

YOUTH: **Annette Doklovic** reported that the Junior High youth had a wonderful time at the "Quake" retreat. The High School youth were unable attend the "Zone" retreat in Cincinnati March 7 through 9 due to the snowy weather conditions.

LOMO CAMPERSHIP ASSISTANCE: Council approved to offer LOMO campership assistance in the amount of one-half of the early registration fee to four First English Lutheran Church youth members who will be attending Camp Mowana this summer.

ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. with prayer by Pastor Larson.

- Mary M. Schwartz
Congregation Council Secretary



MALAWI ORPHAN CARE MINISTRIES

A REPORT FROM SHADRECK



THE BUS HAS FINALLY BEEN BOUGHT:

We at Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries are very pleased to report to First English that the bus we have been waiting for and been praying for has finally been bought.

Total cost for the bus came to MK 1,257,000. (ed: we sent MK 1,488,744).

We are so excited because this bus seems to be in good condition. It will start operating next week.

We will give you reports on the progress of the bus business. It has been put on the Kasungu Lilingwe Road.

We praise God for all those who donated for this bus to be bought. This is a precious gift to KOCM and we thank God for you.

WOMEN'S LOAN PROGRAM:

KOCM will soon start a small loan program for the women who help in the

feeding program. Ten women have been identified to be pioneers of this loan program. These women are those who have been cooking for the children at the feeding center and they also keep orphaned children. These women have been there from the beginning of the ministry to date. This loan program will be revolving among the women who are part of the ministry of KOCM.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-safety and success for the bus business and the revolving loan program.

-that God will be glorified through these businesses.

-the children of Kanyenyeva and their caregivers:

-that they may have adequate food and shelter.

-that they have good health.

-Yami's pregnancy, that she and the baby remain healthy.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE AND HELP OUR MISSIONS! Take your recyclable materials to **Milliron Industries**, 2384 State Route 39, Mansfield, and tell them **ACCOUNT #480**. The receipts of the recyclable materials we donate in the church's name will be allocated for the five missionaries and missions we support: the Kraft, Schmalzle, and Sorge families, and Rytas Orphanage, Klaipeda, Lithuania; scholarships to Lithuania Christian College; and Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries, Malawi. A list of recyclables accepted is on the table in the Narthex.

- Global Mission Committee

ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP'S 2008 EASTER MESSAGE

"For you have died, your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory."

- Colossians 3:3-4

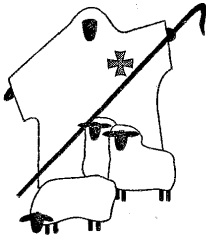
"You have died." The words resonate because this world's violence and suffering -- so pervasive, so needless, so relentless -- haunt every human community and life. Where death rules, hope lies entombed in endless grief.

Another death -- the crucifixion of Jesus -- changed everything. God is not hidden, but present through suffering, sorrow, and death. Jesus is God's resounding "yes!" to the steadfastness of God's forgiving love, embodied on a cross.

The death of Jesus shows no partiality. It was for all nations and all people -- for them, for you, for me. Your life is now with Christ. In baptism you have died. Hidden with Christ, no longer entombed in grief, your life carries the promise of glory.

From that first day of resurrection onward, God has been raising up messengers of salvation, heralds of peace, and testifiers of the promised glory. You are a witness of the hope to come. Quite simply, Christ is your life, my life, our life. You have no other than this One who lives resurrected in you.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



WITHIN THE FOLD . . .

From Tom & Evelyn Woodard "We would like to thank all our brothers and sisters at First English Lutheran Church who signed our birthday poster and sent cards; that includes the children's card from the church. All were so welcomed and helped make our birthdays happy ones. May God bless each and every one. We also want to thank Pastor Kress for his visits. He is such a wonderful person. God's blessings to all."

From Emmie Shaum "Dear Friends, It was great to get the nice birthday cards. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness."

From Jacob Klein "I want to say thanks for the poster and the cards from all of you for my recovery."

From Shirley Bender "Thank you for all the prayers and the prayer shawl for my brother Marvin Bender. Also, thanks to Pastor Kress for his visits and prayers."

From Glen & Jane Eggeman: "We wish to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy following the death of our dear brother, Dale Eggeman."

From the family of Anna Marie McCracken: "We wish to thank all for your prayers, phone calls, visits, cards, and food during the last few months of Anna Marie's year-long illness. Words cannot express our sincere gratitude to Pastor Kress for his many calls and visits to Anna Marie. Thank you Pastor Larson, Pastor Jones, and Dr. Tim Guenther and the choir for a very beautiful funeral service. Last, but not by any means least, a thank you to Marianne Sweat and all others who helped in any way for providing a lovely dinner after the service."

Congratulations to John and Allison Weeks on the birth of their second son, Max David Weeks, on March 5, 2008 weighing 8 lbs and 10 oz. Max joins big brother and big sister, Drew and Lily. Proud grandparents are Lowell and Carolyn Weeks.

From Catholic Charities "Thank you for your donation of food. Catholic Charities in Richland County provides rental, utility, food, medical bill and prescription assistance to eligible individuals. Your donation enables us to assist the growing needs in our community." - Rebecca Owens, Site Manager



APRIL 80+ BIRTHDAYS . . .

Greetings to our members who are 80+ years of age this month! We honor them on their very special day. May God grant to each of them His rich blessings and fill their hearts with His joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

APRIL

6	Miss Edna Berry	466 Broadview Ave.	44903-1946
9	Mrs. Eleanor Laser	632 Courtwright Blvd.	44907-2218
10	Mrs. Evadine Smeltzer	800 Logan Rd., Apt. 214	44907-2758
10	Mrs. Lois Cairns	1458 N. Stewart Rd.	44903-7761
16	Mrs. Louise Dickson	139 Lind Ave.	44903-2103
17	Mr. Chris Reining	594 S. Trimble Rd., Apt. B	44906-4114
18	Mrs. Pat Simmons	1276 Silver Lane	44906-2465
25	Mr. Bill Fry	691 Manchester Rd.	44903-1832
29	Mrs. Maxine Kinton	544 Lexington Ave.	44907-1505

GRADUATES' NAMES REQUESTED

Please call the church office if your child is graduating this spring from high school, college or technical school, 419-522-0662. A listing of graduates will be published in the June Visitor. High School Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 1 at the 11:00 worship service in the Nave.

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN 2008

As of March 21, altar flower sponsors are not yet assigned for the following dates in 2008. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call the church office, 419-522-0662, to reserve a date. Cost per week is \$35.

April
20

October
19

ITEMS OF INTEREST!

The Lion's Club collects used eyeglasses to be recycled. A collection box is now here at the church.

Gordon Food Service (GFS) will credit your personal purchases to our First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, rebate account. Just tell the checkout person this is what you wish to do. (Be sure to say FELC *Mansfield* as there are other First English Lutheran churches in the area!)



Our Junior High group will be selling flowers for Mother's Day as a fund raiser to buy a cow through Lutheran World Relief to help break the cycle of poverty for a needy family in another country. Watch for details!

Zion Lutheran Church in Loudonville is seeking a part time Youth Coordinator. Please mail a letter of application along with a resume to 222 East Main Street, Loudonville Ohio, 44842, or email it to zlcfamily@verizon.net. Application and job description are available at Zion's church office Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Application deadline is April 25, 2008.



Pastor's Notes

FROM OUR VISITATION PASTOR ...

Going Deeper and Climbing Higher

— 1 Kings 18:37

One foggy morning, in a crowded part of old London, a blind, ragged beggar sat by the curb, playing an old violin. But no one noticed. No one heard. The crowd hurried on unheeding. The old hat upturned for coins remained empty. The player's face was weary and forlorn. Then a tall, slender, black-haired man came by. He seemed caught by the strains of music. He took in one quick glance the face of the beggar violin player, the empty hat and the greasy-looking violin. With a kind word, he asked if he might try the violin. Reaching down, he took the violin from the hand of the wondering beggar. He took his stand at the beggar's side, as though he were his companion and partner. Then he began to draw the bow across the strings, very gently, very lightly. Sweet and pleading tones breathed softly out into the heavy foggy morning air. The melody which rose from those strings was strangely appealing. At once the hurrying passers-by stopped as though a spirit-hand had reached out and caught them. They stood listening intently under the strange spell of the music. Finally, the music ended, the hat slightly tipped forward with the toe of the player's boot. Copper and silver rained into the bedraggled hat. The beggar's sightless face revealed his astonishment and delight. His outlook on life had changed completely. The tender-hearted musician was Niccolo Paganini, the world famous violinist. His fellow musician's need touched his heart. His skilled touch drew out

the music that was in the old strings but which had remained untapped. Then with a cheery word and a smile, he slipped away through the crowd and was gone. It was the same violin in the hands of the two men. But it took the Master to bring out what was in that instrument. The violin contained all that the beggar needed. Yet, in his hands, the violin produced nothing. It took the Master to make these possibilities a reality.

Prayer is an instrument by which we can gain our needs. An ignorant drunken man may kneel in humble prayer asking for forgiveness and cleansing, and he will rise a new man in Christ Jesus our Lord. A child can pray the simplest prayer imaginable and fulfill all the conditions of sincere prayer, receiving his or her heart's desires. A busy man or woman, utterly absorbed in the daily job of providing food, roof and clothing for their family, finds prayer the source of peace and strength amid the tension of daily needs. Prayer that really works is prayer which is founded on the foundation of a personal relationship with our Master who is Jesus Christ. Then, through faith, it climbs up to the heights. Such prayer may climb five steps, each are within the reach of anyone who would try.

I) First, prayer is an act. In some desperate hour, a person may simply say, "O God, help me." Someone has said that everyone will pray in an emergency. It may be an almost inarticulate prayer, a wordless cry from the

(continued)

inmost heart. This is the real prayer. Some call these “fox-hole” prayers since even a non-religious person, in a fox-hole in the heat of battle, may cry for help. This impulse should be yielded to. Such prayers bring results. Although some may make fun of such prayers, I suggest they are good since they are the first step.

II) That impulse, once acted on, may mean another and another. This is good for in time, this kind of prayer can grow into a habit. A habit is the natural outgrowth of an act. What you do one time, you are most likely to do again and again. Each time it is done, it is more easy to do. Daniel, who prayed three times a day, comes to mind. Our Lord Jesus prayed in the early morning and late at night. More than once, Jesus prayed all night. We too, need to develop the habit of prayer.

III) But the next step in developing our prayer life is patterning our prayers around God’s will. Prayer often begins selfishly, “Lord, help me!” It grows into a mental attitude which is measured by the sense of His presence rather than our need.

George Mueller, that mighty man of prayer, who trusted God completely in caring for his orphans, left us with this philosophy of prayer:

“I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are

ready to do the Lord’s will, whatever it may be. When one truly wants to do God’s will, you are usually very close to knowing what God’s will is for you.”

“Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do, I make myself liable to great delusions.”

“I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone, without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Spirit guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and not apart from them.”

“Next, I take into account the providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God’s will in connection with His Word and His Spirit.”

“I ask God, in prayer, to reveal His will to me.”

“Thus, through prayer to God and the study of the Word, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.”

— Pastor Cloyd Kress

Note: This article on Prayer will continue and be concluded in the May issue of The Visitor.



We remember the families and friends of those who died February 20 - March 21, 2008:

Cleeta Davis <i>(mother of Jeff Davis)</i>	February 20
Anna Marie McCracken	February 28
Phyllis Westfall <i>(sister of Pastor Cloyd Kress)</i>	February 28
Richard Waite	February 28
Gloria Heidlebaugh <i>(mother of Randy Heidlebaugh)</i>	February 29
Reva Zeitler	March 10
Betty Bush <i>(sister of Nip McCready)</i>	March 13
Doris Enskat	March 21

We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace to touch their lives during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ our Savior.

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals:	March 3, 2008	Anna Marie McCracken
	March 27, 2008	Doris Enskat
Graveside:	March 14, 2008	Reva Zeitler

MEMORIALS

Christian Day School

Anna Marie McCracken:

Dee Hautzenroeder

Major Capital Improvement Endowment

Max Dye:

Ken & Vi Deems

David Eckstein:

Ken & Vi Deems

Memorial Fund

Anna Marie McCracken:

Paul Conrad

Patricia Hall

Renewing God's House Appeal

Anna Marie McCracken:

Ken & Vi Deems

Robert Starner:

Margaret Runyon

Stained Glass Window Fund

Max Dye:

Bob & Nip McCready

Anna Marie McCracken:

Virginia Blizzard

Youth Ministry Fund

Anna Marie McCracken:

David Prather

Seminary Student Fund

Anna Marie McCracken

Helen Anderson

Anonymous

Juanita Baker

Don & Jan Beddard

Shirley Bender

Bob & Pam Blankenhorn

Dr. Robert Burns

Bernice Campbell

Joe & Karyne Carey

Stan & Chris Cichanowicz

Marilyn Dinges

Ted & Karen Ellis

Will & Dolores Esler

Jim Hannewald

Gene Harsch Family

Bill & Mary Hayes

Tom & Jeanne Hillman

Randall & Mary Ann Jacobs

Mary Jackson

Clancy & Carol Lauthers

Lois McCullough

Roger & Eileen Miller

The Molyet Family

Norma Price

Carroll & Elizabeth Pritchard

Bill & Mary Ellen Schulz

Jan Swartz

Carolyn Weeks

Dean & Pat Wells

Sherry Winbigler

Maxine Zimmerman

HELP NEEDED WITH FUNERAL DINNERS. Will you help with this ministry by providing a covered dish for our funeral dinners or by helping to set up, serve, or clean up? Please contact Ruth Sweval at 419-526-5090 or res1366@yahoo.com.

WHEN PLANNING FOR YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE, consider our First English Lutheran Church Columbarium. Brochures about our Columbarium are available in the tract racks, or contact the church office, 419-522-0662.

GRACE MATTERS IS THE WEEKLY 30-MINUTE RADIO PROGRAM of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The program is currently heard on station WHK-AM1420 (Cleveland), 7:30 a.m. Sunday; WKVX-AM 960 (Wooster), 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and WZLP-FM 95.7 (Loudonville), 10:00 a.m. Monday.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Pastor Larson	plarson@felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Jones	ajones@felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Kress	ckress@felc-mansfield.org
Timothy Guenther	tguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Becky Pittman	bpittman@felc-mansfield.org
Dot Blaney	dblaney@felc-mansfield.org
Betty Guenther	bguenther@felc-mansfield.org
Connie Stewart	cstewart@felc-mansfield.org

Please, no junk mail, cutesy stories, or chain letters. Reserve the use of church e-mail for important correspondence with the staff. **Visit our web site at: www.felc-mansfield.org**

MISSION STATEMENT

First English Lutheran Church, Mansfield, Ohio

First English Lutheran Church exists as a visible sign of the continuing presence of Jesus Christ through his body on earth, the Church. Christ's presence is made known through the ministry of this congregation as:

We regularly worship and experience through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the vitality of the Word, the assurance of God's acceptance through the divine commands and the earthly elements of the Sacraments, and the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in the faith.

We invite those unfamiliar with the saving grace extended to all who proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior to unite with us and to join us in continually familiarizing all with the Grace of God through our nurturing and caring efforts.

We reach out to the needs of our community and our world in compassion, generosity, and equity. We practice stewardship of our resources (time, talent, and monetary) as responsive expressions of the blessings we have received from the Lord so that the ministry of this congregation will be assured of continuing viability.

THE VISITOR is published monthly by First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-0075. Website: www.felc-mansfield.org. Christian Day School phone: 419/522-7500.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Paul L. Larson, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Andrew W. Jones, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Cloyd E. Kress, Visitation Pastor
Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, Director of Music
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts
Mrs. Terry Bianchi, Interim Christian Day School Director
Dorothy Blaney, Parish Administrator
Betty Guenther, Staff Secretary/Visitor Editor
Connie Stewart, Printer/Mailing Coordinator
Donna Turney, Christian Day School Secretary
John Meyer, Custodial/Maintenance
Janet Kick, Nursery Care Worker

First Lutheran sponsored missionaries

Bolivia, South America: Rev. Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises, and Tucker
Nairobi, Kenya: Rev. Bob and Denise Schmalzle, and children Aaron and Jacob
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries to India: Brian and Barbara Sorge and family

CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Matt Blankenship	Personnel	Sherry Winbigler
Vice President	Gene Harsch	Property	Shawn Volz
Secretary	Mary Schwartz	Service Ministry	Becky Sarbach
Christian Day School	Linda Elgin	Stewardship	Renee Ward
Christian Education	Chris Cichanowicz	SCS Superintendent	Chris Cichanowicz
Congregational Life	Nancy Pasheilich	Worship	Roscoe Thompson, III
Evangelism	Steve Ritz	Youth Ministry	Annette Doklovic
Finance	Rob Skropits	Women of the ELCA	Cheryl Lantz
Global Mission	Jeanne Hillman		